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A New Kansas Meteorite

Paper 38 of the 1924 Meeting at McPherson

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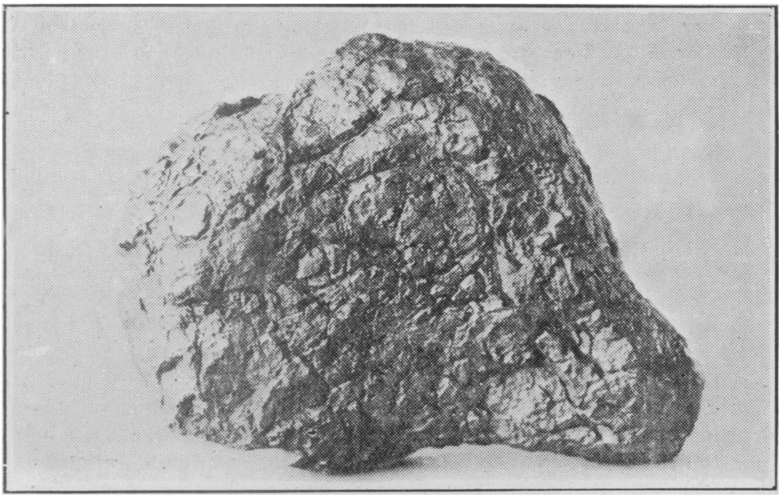
An undescribed meteorite for which I am proposing the name Coldwater Meteorite came to my attention on December 9, 1923, while in the village of Coldwater, Kansas, collecting information regarding the meteoric fall of November 9, 1923. Mr. A. M. Brown showed me an oddly shaped mass of stone resembling limonite. It was almost black, about eleven inches in its largest dimension, and shaped somewhat like a ham of pork. The surface was strikingly fissured, checked, and blistered, giving it the appearance of having been roasted in an oven. In fact I have several times been impressed by the resemblance which it bore to a volcanic bomb. The appearance is well shown by the accompanying photograph.

The specimen came into my possession at the time and was brought to McPherson College. It was found to weigh 41 pounds, and the specific gravity was roughly determined to be 3.9. After photographing it the mass was sent to the United States National Museum for cutting and analysis. Upon cutting the mass showed no trace of metal with the exception of some almost microscopic particles which were thought by Dr. Merrill to be schreibersite, but which are not so reported in the final analysis. In appearance the mass resembles a concretion of limonite, being practically the same throughout. The



chemical analysis was made by Booth, Barrett, and Blair of Philadelphia, and was submitted to the writer by Dr. Geo. P. Merrill. It follows:

SiO_2	2.910%
Al_2O_3	1.610%
Fe_2O_3	81.595%
P_2O_5	0.621%
CuO	0.038%
NiO	1.999%
CoO	0.113%
MgO	0.331%
SO_3	0.219%
	89.436%
Residue in 1-1 HCl	3.361%
Water (red heat)	7.205%
	100.002%

The residue is white and containns no schreibersite nor other alloy. Its composition is:

SiO_2	78.56%
Ferric oxide and alumina	
R_2O_3	13.74%
Na_2O	3.15%
K_2O	4.55%

The circumstances surrounding the finding of this body were given me by Mr. Brown as follows: "I found the specimen 4 1-4 miles west and 1 3-4 miles north of the depot at Coldwater, Kansas. (These distances might vary a few rods.) It was located in the N. E. quarter, Sec. 5, Range 19, Twp. 32; in the S. E. quarter of the N. W. forty of said quarter. It was found sometime during the middle of May, 1918."

Notes on Kansas Meteorites

METORIC FALL OF DECEMBER 17, 1923

Paper 39 of the 1924 Meeting at McPherson

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On December 17, 1923, at approximately 9:00 p. m. another meteor was seen by several students of McPherson College who reported to me the next day. A notice through the press brought information which indicated that it was more than a shooting star. The general location of its disappearance was determined to be in the vicinity of Whitewater, Kansas. Up to this time I was not convinced that the body had been of important size. Nevertheless, reports of violent shaking of buildings in several places kept reaching me and